

# Pentecost

Pentecost (Greek for fiftieth day) refers to how much time elapses from the observance of **Passover** – seven weeks plus a day, which always fell on a Sunday. It is the observance of the Festival of Weeks and goes under several names (Exodus 34:22; Deuteronomy 16:9-11) – the Festival of Harvest (Exodus 23:16) or the Day of **Firstfruits** (Numbers 28:26).

## Festival of Weeks

The Festival of Weeks is one of three required feasts for all Jewish males to attend.<sup>1</sup> All labor was suspended. Two loaves of leavened bread presented before the Lord. It signified the completion of the barley harvest and was a time of celebration and good cheer by the inclusion of the poor, aliens and Levites. Free-will offerings also marked the festivities.

### Exodus 23:16

*“Celebrate the Feast of Harvest with the firstfruits of the crops you sow in your field. Celebrate the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in your crops from the field.”*

### Exodus 34:22

*“Celebrate the Feast of Weeks with the firstfruits of the wheat harvest, and the Feast of **Ingathering** at the turn of the year.”*

### Leviticus 23:15-21

*“From the day after the Sabbath, the day you brought the sheaf of the wave offering, count off seven full weeks. Count off fifty days up to the day after the seventh Sabbath, and then present an offering of new grain to the LORD. From wherever you live, bring two loaves made of two-tenths of an **ephah** of fine flour, baked with yeast, as a wave offering of firstfruits to the LORD. Present with this bread seven male lambs, each a year old and without defect, one young bull and two rams. They will be a burnt offering to the LORD, together with their grain offerings and drink offerings – an offering made by fire, an aroma pleasing to the LORD. Then sacrifice one male goat for a sin offering and two lambs, each a year old, for a fellowship offering. The priest is to wave the two lambs before the LORD as a wave offering, together with the bread of the firstfruits. They are a sacred offering to the LORD for the priest. On that same day you are to proclaim a sacred assembly and do no regular work. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come, wherever you live.”*

### Numbers 28:26-31

*“On the day of firstfruits, when you present to the LORD an offering of new grain during the Feast of Weeks, hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work. Present a burnt offering of two young bulls, one ram and seven male lambs a year old as an aroma pleasing to the LORD. With each bull there is to be a grain offering of three-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil; with the ram, two-tenths; and with each of the seven lambs, one-tenth. Include one male goat to make atonement for you. Prepare these together with their drink offerings, in addition to the regular burnt offering and its grain offering. Be sure the animals are without defect.”*

### Deuteronomy 16:9-12

*Count off seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the standing grain. Then celebrate the Feast of Weeks to the LORD your God by giving a freewill offering in proportion to the blessings the LORD your God has given you. And rejoice before the LORD your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name – you, your sons and daughters, your menservants and maidservants, the Levites in your towns, and the aliens, the fatherless and the widows living among you. Remember that you were slaves in Egypt, and follow carefully these decrees.*

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<sup>1</sup> Passover and Festival of Ingathering are the other two (Exodus 34:18-23).

## **2 Chronicles 8:13**

*...according to the daily requirement for offerings commanded by Moses for Sabbaths, New Moons and the three annual feasts – the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Tabernacles.*